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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Kevin W. Smith

Serial No.: 10/223,259

Confirmation No.: 9310

Filed: August 19, 2002

For: Well Drilling Fluids

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Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: Philip C. Tucker

Customer No.: 36,735

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JAN 28 2004

GROUP 3600

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 CFR 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited on <u>16 Jan 2004</u> with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.	
<u>16 Jan 2004</u> Date	<u>Philip C. Tucker</u> Signature

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED SEPTEMBER 16, 2003

In response to the Office Action dated September 16, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response with a one month extension set to expire on January 16, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/WEAT/0423.D1/WBP in the amount of \$110.00 for a one month extension of time, and for other fees, including excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks** begin on page 6 of this paper.

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